

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/SY:DKSTEVENS:JBH
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NEA - JCONNOLLY

-----190120Z 124777 /72

P 181916Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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FOR RSS GARRETT FROM DIKEOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF RSO SANA AND KUWAIT AREAS
OF RESPONSIBILITY

REF: (A) KARACHI 1190, (B) CA-3670 OF APRIL 1974

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUING THE RSO
POSITION AT SANA. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS CITED BELOW, I HAVE
NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROCEED WITH ABOLITION OF THE RSO AND
RSO SECRETARIAL POSITIONS IN FAVOR OF SATISFYING MORE URGENT
REQUIREMENTS AT OTHER LOCATIONS.

2. WHILE THE NEED FOR A STRONG SECURITY PROGRAM IN SANA IS
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UNQUESTIONED, SY'S EVALUATION OF COMPETING WORLD-WIDE
PRIORITIES COUPLED WITH THE VERY STRINGENT POSITION LIMITATIONS
UNDER WHICH WE ARE NOW OPERATING, ARGUE AGAINST
RETENTION OF THESE POSITIONS. THEY ARE BADLY NEEDED AT
POSTS WHERE THE FULL-TIME ATTENTION OF ONE, AND SOMETIMES
TWO, OF OUR PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS IS NEEDED IF OUR
PROGRAMS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

3. AS YOU WILL RECALL FROM REF. B THE RSO POSITION IN SANA WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT WERE ESTABLISHED TO DO

WHAT JOHN CORRIS HAS DONE SO WELL; ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE COUNTER TERRORISM POSTURE AND, IN GENERAL, BUILD A STRONG SECURITY AWARENESS AT THE POST. AS YOU POINT OUT, THE KIND OF PROGRAM THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT SANA CAN FUNCTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A GOOD POST SECURITY OFFICER DEVOTING PROPER, BUT MUCH LESS THAN FULL-TIME ATTENTION, TO IT.

5. I BELIEVE THAT SANA CAN BE EFFECTIVELY COVERED FROM JIDDA, A POSITION WHICH WE ARE PUSHING TO HAVE UPGRADED TO THE RU-4 LEVEL. WHILE THE RSO THERE WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO SERVICE ALL OF HIS POSTS WELL, I THINK IT CAN BE DONE. I AM VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE UNDERSTAFFED ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION IN KUWAIT BUT SY JUST DOES NOT HAVE EXTRA SECURITY POSITIONS AVAILABLE TO BOLSTER ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS AND MEET SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WORLD-WIDE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT RSO KUWAIT TOO CAN SUPPORT ALL OF HIS POSTS.

6. I REALIZE THAT THE COUNTER TERRORISM IMPROVEMENTS AT POSTS IN THE GULF STATES ARE NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED AND THAT NEW BUILDINGS THERE WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE SURVEY AND IMPROVEMENT WORK. REST ASSURED THAT IF TDY SUPPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY OF THESE PROJECTS WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE THAT SUPPORT TO THE POST.
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